

What is claimed is:

1. A workpiece carrier comprising:
 - a feed mechanism;
 - a carriage fed and driven by said feed mechanism; and
 - 5 a casing accommodating at least a part of said feed mechanism and said carriage, said casing having at least one opening portion which is provided along a direction of feeding performed by said feed mechanism, and an elastic seal blade for sealing said opening portion,
 - 10 wherein said carriage has a block-like workpiece mounting seat, which passes through said opening portion and projects upwardly from said casing, and also has separating members, provided at both ends in a moving direction of said workpiece mounting seat, for separating said elastic seal blade from an
 - 15 outer surface of said workpiece mounting seat.

2. The workpiece carrier according to claim 1, wherein said separating member has a plurality of gas blowoff holes in a part facing said elastic seal blade.

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3. The workpiece carrier according to claim 1, wherein said separating member has a first magnetic force generating surface on a part thereof facing said elastic seal blade, and wherein said elastic seal blade has a second magnetic force
- 25 generating surface, which is provided on a part thereof facing

said separating member and has a same polarity as that of said first magnetic force generating surface.

4. The workpiece carrier according to claim 1, wherein
5 said casing has a suction hole for setting an interior portion of said casing under a negative pressure.

5. The workpiece carrier according to claim 1, wherein
said elastic seal blade is constructed in such a way as to be
10 easy to expand in a feed direction of said feed mechanism and as to be less easy to expand in a direction perpendicular to the feed direction.

6. The workpiece carrier according to claim 5, wherein
15 said elastic seal blade is formed like an elongated rectangle and has a plurality of incision grooves, and wherein said incision grooves are provided alternately in front and rear surface portions in such a way as to be parallel to one another in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of
20 said elastic seal blade.

7. The workpiece carrier according to claim 5, wherein
said elastic seal blade is formed like an elongated rectangle
and has a plurality of slits, and wherein said slits are provided
25 in such a way as to extend in a direction perpendicular to a

longitudinal direction of said elastic seal blade and as be parallel to one another.

8. The workpiece carrier according to claim 5, wherein
5 said elastic seal blade is formed like an elongated rectangle and has a plurality of folding lines, and wherein said folding lines are provided in such a way as to extend in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said elastic seal blade and as be parallel to one another.

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